

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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FM AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1382

AMEMBASSY LISBON

INFO AMCONSUL OPORTO

COMUSFORAZ

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L PONTA DELGADA 0027

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUB: AZOREAN DEVELOPMENTS

REF: PONTA DELGADA 26

POLITICAL VIOLENCE:

1. THE RECENT KILLINGS OF SEVERAL PRIZE DAIRY COWS BELONGING TO A FLA SYMPATHIZER ON TERCEIRA HAS SHOCKED AZOREANS, THE MAJORITY OF WHOM ARE LINKED TO THE DAIRY INDUSTRY. MOST BLAME FAR LEFTISTS OR SOLDIERS

FROM THE CONTINENT FOR THE CRIME. SEVERAL WEEKS AGO TWO SOLDIERS AND A VISITING FRIEND FROM THE CONTINZNT DAMAGED SEVERAL CARS IN TERCEIRA WHICH HAD SEPARATIST SLOGANS ON THEM.

GASOLINE PRICE HIKES:

2. THE CDS, THE PPD OF THE PONTA DELGADA DISTRICT AND REPRESENTATIVES OF EMPLOYEES OF A NUMBER OF BUSINESS AND OTHER ORGANIZATION THROUGHOUT T HE

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AZORES HAVE DEMANDED THAT THE JUNTA REGIONAL EXEMPT THE AZORES FROM T

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RECENT HIKE IN GASOLINE PRICES. AZOREANS REASON THAT THE ECONOMIC CRISIS IN PORTUGAL IS NOT THEIR FAULT SO THEY SHOULD NOT HAVE TO PAY FOR IT. THE JUNTA HAS NOT RESPONDED TO THESE DEMANDS.

TITO TO VISIT THE AZORES:

3. LOCAL OFFICIALS ARE BEGINNING TO PLAN FOR THE VISIT OF PRESIDENT TITO IN EARLY FEBRUARY ON HIS WAY BACK FROM A LATIN AMERICA VISIT. LOCAL SOURCES EXPECT COSTA GOMEZ TO COME TO THE AZORES TO WELCOME TITO.

G COMMENT:

4. THE ISSUE OF THE DECREE LAW ON THE JUNTA'S POWERS, UNHAPPINESS WITH THE GASOLINE PRICE HIKE, AND THE POLITICAL VANDALISM ON TERCEIRA HAVE ALL CONTRIBUTED IN VARIOUS DEGREES TO A NOTABLE INCREASE IN TENSION WHICH HAS BEEN MANUFACTURED IN A SUDDEN UP SURGE IN GRAFFTI AND RUMORS. THE GOP DECISION TO MODIFY THE DISPUTED DECREE LAW HAD A CALMING EFFECT.
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